

"Behind this mask there is an idea...
and ideas are bulletproof"

FIGHT FASCISM. ALWAYS.



**Emotional Anarchist
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**ANTIFASCISM
AND THE THREAT OF
"TERRORISM"**



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**RESIST
FASCISM**

Afterword

This was written out of urgency, fear, and hope.
Because the declaration of “antifa” as a terrorist threat strikes at the heart of our rights.
Because history shows us how quickly repression can escalate once antifascism is criminalized.
Because knowledge, solidarity, and resistance still remain powerful weapons, and they are ours to wield.

Authoritarianism does not arrive all at once.
It seeps its way into our lives, through language, policies, and the normalization of repression.
The branding of antifascism as “terrorism” is not the end.
It is a beginning.
What happens next, depends on whether we recognize the danger, and whether we act.

Warning:

History shows what happens when antifascists are silenced.
To criminalize antifascism is to criminalize opposition itself.

Reminder:

You have rights.
You have a voice.
You are not alone.
Resistance is not just an idea, it is a community, a lineage, and a duty.

Final Disclaimer:

Nothing in this zine is written by a professional.
It was heavily researched and well thought out, but it is by no means professional opinion.
It is simply the sharing of basic knowledge from one individual to another, to raise awareness for the very real possibility of worsening times.

Antifascism is not terrorism. It is survival.
It is care for one another.
It is the refusal to bow to fear.
If the government calls that a threat, then it says more about the government than about us.

Preface:

September 22nd 2025, the trump administration announced that “ANTIFA” is now a designate domestic terrorist threat. (Read more on [Whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov) under “Designating Antifa as a Domestic Terrorist Organization”)

The first official statement begins with the claim:

“Antifa is a militarist, anarchist enterprise that explicitly calls for the overthrow of the United States Government, law enforcement authorities, and our system of law. It uses illegal means to organize and execute a campaign of violence and terrorism nationwide to accomplish these goals.”

This executive order even calls for the investigation, disruption, and dismantling of so-called Antifa networks using the full powers of the executive branch.

This poses a massive danger for anyone even identifies with antifascist beliefs. "Antifa" is not, and never has been, a centralized organization as some believe. It is merely a political thought. It has no leaders, no members, or headquarters. It is not an "organization" in the legal sense. It is simply a political stance. An opposition to fascism.

By treating antifascism itself as terrorism, the US government has effectively criminalized dissent against authoritarianism. This is not just a mischaracterization. It is a dangerous inversion. To call opposition to fascism, "terrorism", exposes the fascist motives of the state itself.

Of course, this is nothing new. America has long carried authoritarian traits. From slavery, to the genocide of indigenous peoples, to the repression of dissent during the red scare, and COINTELPRO.

The criminalization of fascism is not a break in the tradition. It is written into the very system the country was founded upon.

What is ANTIFA?:

Antifa, short for "antifascist", is not an organization. It has no members, no leaders, no headquarters, or official structure. Antifa is, at its core, a political stance. The refusal to accept fascism.

***It is however, often organized into local autonomous groups, under the name of the ideology of antifascism.**

An example would be an "antifascist self defense class". *



The antifa movement or ideology, is against all forms of fascism and all forms of oppression.

Rooted in being against white supremacy, but against other forms of oppression, such as:

imperialism, racism, nazism, colonialism, zionism, antisemitism, islamophobia, sexism, cisgenderism/heterosexism (or lgbtqia+phobia) classism/aporophobia, or ableism.

What To Do If You Are Accused of Being "Antifa"?:

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER:

*** DO NOT TAKE THIS AS LEGAL ADVICE.**

I am not a lawyer or legal professional. Nothing in this zine should be taken as formal legal advice. The information provided here is for general educational purposes only. If you are worried about your rights, facing legal trouble, or simply want to learn more, you should ALWAYS consult with a licensed attorney or a trusted legal aid organization. Only a qualified legal professional can give you advice specific to your situation.

The most important thing to know: you still have rights. Even if officials use the word "terrorism," antifascist belief or association is not a crime in itself. Only specific unlawful acts can be prosecuted.

If you are questioned, detained, or accused, your best protection is silence and preparation.

1. Have an attorney ready.

**- Identify an attorney you can trust before you ever need one.
- Keep their number saved in your phone under "Attorney" or even in your "favorite contacts" and written down somewhere safe.**

*** If you cannot afford an attorney, groups like the ACLU can help connect you to legal resources. ***

2. Say NOTHING to law enforcement.

Do not explain.

Do not argue.

Do not try to "clear things up."

Anything you say can and will be used against you, so exercise your fifth amendment right to shut up.

3. IF you MUST speak say ONE sentence ONLY.

If for any reason, you are forced to say something, the ONLY safe words are:

"I want to speak with my attorney."

DO NOT SAY ANYTHING ELSE.

4. Do Not Consent.

If police ask to search your phone, home, or belongings, remain calm and state:

"I do not consent to a search."

Then say NOTHING MORE.

5. Call your attorney IMMEDIATELY.

Do not answer any questions, just don't say anything, don't even have casual conversation.

Stay completely silent until a lawyer is present.

**ACLU OF NM:
aclu-nm.org**

REMEMBER:

ANYTHING you say, can and WILL BE used against you.

**NATIONAL ACLU:
aclu.org**

What Is to Be Done?

When a government declares antifascism a threat, the question becomes urgent: How do we resist? What can we do?

1. Educate Yourself and Others.

- Knowledge is power. Learn the history of fascism and antifascism. Share it with your community. Host reading groups, create zines, distribute articles, and break down complex topics into plain language.
- Fascism thrives on ignorance; antifascism thrives on knowledge.

2. Build Solidarity.

- Fascism isolates people. Antifascism brings us together.
 - Connect with local organizations working on racial justice, immigrant rights, workers rights, or community defense.
- Even if you don't call yourself "antifa," you can stand in solidarity with those resisting oppression.

3. Use Your Voice.

- Write, speak, create art, or simply talk to those around you.
- Authoritarianism relies on silence. Even small conversations can disrupt the spread of propaganda.

4. Defend Protest.

- Support demonstrations, even if you cannot attend.
- Share information, donate to bail funds, or help provide water, food, or first aid.
- Every protest needs both frontline participants and those supporting behind the scenes.

5. Protect Each Other.

- Keep watch over your community.
- Challenge harassment when it's safe to do so.
- Share security tips. If someone is targeted for their beliefs or associations, don't let them face it alone.

6. Stay Engaged Politically.

- Fascism grows when people disengage.
- Push for laws that protect civil liberties.
- Hold officials accountable when they abuse power.

7. Care for Yourself and Others.

- Resistance is not only confrontation, it is survival.
- Burnout helps authoritarianism. Rest, heal, and support one another so the struggle can continue.

8. Practice Everyday Resistance.

You can resist every day in ways large and small:

- Attending town halls or city council meetings to raise concerns, speaking against unjust policies at public forums, joining or supporting local mutual aid groups, or standing alongside marginalized neighbors when they are targeted.
 - Resistance can be as simple as refusing to stay silent in the face of bigotry.
- Every act of presence and defiance pushes back against the normalization of fascism.

The history of ANTIFA and fascism;

The roots of antifascism, go back an entire century. It has devolved and taken on various new meaning since the coining of the term "fascism" in 1919 Italy, under the authoritarian regime of Benito Mussolini.

(Read more on Wikipedia's article about "fascism" and "antifascism")

The fascist forces arising in the 1920s in European countries caused the rise of antifascism. It had gained the most significance during WWII.

The bitter truth about the development of fascism is one that is usually ignored by the public eye. Adolf Hitler and his circle of Nazi legal theorists actively studied the United States as a model.

In *Hitler's American Model* (2017), legal historian James Q. Witman demonstrates how Nazi lawyers carefully examined U.S. race law when drafting the Nuremberg Laws. They had looked up to American Jim Crow segregation, bans on interracial marriage, and citizenship restrictions as examples of how a modern state could enforce racial hierarchy through law.

Hitler also admired U.S. history more broadly. In *Mein Kampf*, he praised America's conquest of the indigenous peoples as an example of "living space" (Lebensraum) for a dominant race.

The American tradition of eugenics also influenced Nazi racial policy.

Historian Edwin Black in *War Against The Weak* (2003), details how American eugenics programs directly inspired Germany's early sterilization laws.

The uncomfortable reality is that the United States did not merely "defeat" fascism in WWII. It taught fascism how to exist in the first place.

Modern Antifa, especially in the U.S., understands this history. Antifascism here has always been tied to struggles against fascism, white supremacy, and authoritarianism.

Antifascism is a response.

The rise of antifascism only happens in the rise of fascism.

History shows the cost of when fascism is ignored.

Go read a book.

(and not one published under the lens of white savior America)

Why the Trump Administration Calls Antifa a Threat:

The Trump administration's declaration that "antifa" is a terrorist threat is not about law, it is about politics.

We know that Antifa is not an "organization" in any sense of the word. But what it does represent is organized resistance to authoritarianism, fascism, and white nationalism.

By blaming "antifa," the administration could:

Discredit protests.

- Labeling demonstrators as "terrorists" reframes the legitimate anger over systemic racism and police violence as "extremism".

Justify repression.

- Military-style crackdowns, federal deployments, and expanded police powers are easier to sell when the public is told they are fighting "terrorists."

Shift responsibility.

- Instead of addressing police brutality, structural inequality, or governmental failures, the state redirected blame onto an imaginary external enemy.

These tactics matter. By inventing "antifa" as a threat, the administration is not only slandering dissenters, but also obscuring its own role in escalating violence.

Police crackdowns, unlawful detentions, surveillance programs, and vigilante emboldenment all flourish under the shadow of the "antifa" myth.

The danger of "antifa" to the state is not violence, but instead, avoided accountability.

To acknowledge that antifascism exists is to admit that fascism itself is alive within American institutions. Rather than face that truth, the government casts antifascism as terrorism.

Not the First Time:

The attempt to criminalize antifascism is not new.

In 2020, during Trump's first term, the administration announced its intent to designate "antifa" a terrorist organization following the nationwide protests after the murder of George Floyd.

Legal experts immediately noted that the government had no authority to make such a designation: U.S. law provides no mechanism for labeling domestic groups as terrorist organizations.

Nonetheless, the rhetoric was powerful.

By equating antifascist protesters with terrorists, the administration sought to delegitimize mass protest and justify harsh crackdowns by law enforcement.

History also provides darker warnings.

In 1933, one of Adolf Hitler's very first moves after consolidating power was to target antifascists. The original Antifaschistische Aktion, founded in 1932 by members of the German Communist Party, was outlawed almost immediately after the Nazi seizure of power. Antifascist activists were among some the first to be arrested, imprisoned, or sent to concentration camps.

Their repression marked the beginning of the Nazi regime's total destruction of political opposition.

The lesson is clear: authoritarian governments often begin their rise by criminalizing antifascism itself. To declare opposition to fascism as "terrorism" is to invert reality and to pave the way for the repression of all dissent.

The Politics of the Word “Terrorism”:

As terrorism scholar, Bruce Hoffman explains in his book, *Inside Terrorism*; terrorism is not just about violence. It is about communication. An act of terrorism sends a message, and so does the word itself. Governments wield the label “terrorist” to delegitimize, dehumanize, and criminalize political opponents.

Over the past two decades, “terrorism” has become a buzzword in American politics. It is invoked less of a precise legal category and comes off as more of vague insult.

A way to brand an enemy as illegitimate, violent, and undeserving of rights.

By calling someone a “terrorist,” politicians put aside debate, silence opposition, and justify extreme measures.

History shows how dangerous this is.

After 9/11, the term “terrorism” was used to justify mass surveillance, racial profiling, secret watchlists, and indefinite detentions.

Muslim, Arab, and South Asian communities were treated as a “suspect population,” not because of what they did, but because of what they were presumed to represent.

The power of the word allowed the government to stretch its authority far beyond constitutional limits.

The same tactic is at work with “antifa.”

By attaching the “terrorist” label, officials are not describing a reality. They are creating one.

Once the label is applied, the state can treat antifascism as a national security threat, even without evidence of organized violence.

Protest becomes extremism, dissent becomes criminal, and resistance becomes an existential danger to the nation.

This is why the word “terrorism” matters so much.

It is not neutral. It is a political weapon.

By branding antifascism as terrorism, the government is not warning the public of danger.

It is warning the public not to resist.

A Threat to the Constitution:

Labeling “antifa” a terrorist threat is not only misleading, it is dangerous to the basic rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

Even if presented as rhetoric, such declarations signal how far the government is willing to stretch its power.

First Amendment (Free Speech & Assembly):

The First Amendment protects the right to express political beliefs, even radical or unpopular ones. It also protects the right to assemble; including protests, marches, and demonstrations. By equating antifascism with terrorism, the government risks deterring free expression.

If antifascist speech is treated as “terrorist propaganda,” then anyone openly opposing fascism could be silenced or targeted for surveillance.

Due Process (Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments):

The Constitution guarantees that no person can be deprived of liberty without due process of law.

A formal terrorist designation bypasses this principle.

It punishes people not for criminal acts, but for associations or beliefs.

If antifascism itself is branded criminal, then individuals may be punished without evidence of wrongdoing, violating the very foundation of American justice.

Free Association:

The right to form groups, organizations, and movements is central to democracy.

Antifascism is not an organization, but if it is treated as one, then any gathering of antifascists could be construed as a “terrorist cell.”

This criminalizes association itself, leaving people vulnerable to prosecution simply for being in the wrong room, at the wrong protest, or connected to the wrong people online.

The Broader Danger:

What begins with “antifa” rarely ends there.

Once the government normalizes branding opposition movements as “terrorist,” the same logic can be extended to labor unions, environmental activists, immigrant rights groups, or any other movement that challenges state power. The threat is not only to antifascists, but to the entire framework of political dissent.

An Empty Declaration:

Although officials have declared “antifa” a terrorist threat, there is no actual enforcement policy or legal mechanism behind such a claim.

Unlike foreign terrorist organizations, which can be formally designated by the Secretary of State under federal law, there is no domestic process for creating an official terrorist list inside the United States.

What this means is that the government cannot suddenly start prosecuting people for “membership in antifa”. Antifa is not an organization, and U.S. law does not criminalize ideology alone.

To bring charges, prosecutors still need evidence of specific criminal acts: assault, property damage, conspiracy, etc.

The declaration therefore functions less as a policy and more as a threat.

It signals to law enforcement agencies that antifascists should be viewed as suspects, even without cause.

It tells the public that opposing fascism is synonymous with extremism.

The declaration does not provide a clear framework for action against “Antifa”

This ambiguity is deliberate.

Without concrete policy, the government retains flexibility. It can surveil, investigate, or prosecute individuals under existing laws while claiming to act under the banner of counterterrorism.

The lack of definition makes the declaration dangerous precisely because it is so open-ended.

What Counts as Domestic Terrorism?

In the United States, the legal definition of domestic terrorism comes from 18 U.S. Code § 2331(5).

According to this statute, domestic terrorism refers to activities that:

- Involve acts dangerous to human life that violate U.S. or state criminal laws;

Appear intended to:

- intimidate or coerce a civilian population,
- influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion,
- affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping;
- And occur primarily within U.S. territorial jurisdiction.

It is important to understand that this is an only a definition.

Unlike “Foreign Terrorist Organizations” (which the Secretary of State can formally designate under U.S. law), there is no legal mechanism for the U.S. government to formally “designate” domestic groups as terrorist organizations.

Instead, agencies may label certain movements as a “terrorist threat” for the purpose of investigation, surveillance, and prosecution.

The phrase is political, not legal.

This is where confusion arises. When officials call “antifa” a terrorist organization, they are not using a formal legal designation. They are using rhetoric to justify state action. Since Antifa is not even an organization but instead a political position, the label functions less as a legal fact and more as a tool of criminalization.

In practice, the FBI and Department of Justice track individuals and groups they believe meet the definition above, but prosecutions must always be based on specific criminal acts, not on ideology alone.

Simply holding antifascist beliefs does not, under law, qualify as terrorism.

Even though the executive order speaks in forceful language, legal scholars (or anyone that can read...) know that this order lacks a solid statutory foundation.